

Our Boys and Girls Conducted By Polly Evans.

Helen's Masquerade Party

Why it Proved Such an Immense Success

WHY was Helen's Halloween masquerade party such a success? I don't remember that she made any great preparations for it. It was the following Sunday when she stopped on her way home from church to chat with Helen's mother.

"Well," replied Mrs. Graham, "I think it was just because she did not make any great preparations. It was just what a boys and girls' party ought to be—absolutely informal. And, too, there was much secrecy about it. Even Helen herself did not know half that was to be revealed on the night of the party."

Helen's mother was right. Informality and secrecy—these were what made the party such a success.

The first question Helen settled was the kind of invitation to send out. Being quite a little artist in her way, she decorated a lot of plain cards with pictures of ovals, bats, black cats, brooms, etc., and on each one she lettered some such rhyme as this:

"Come Halloween night at 8—
The witches will tell you your fate.
Now look in your bosom this place,
Or ill-luck will likely be your lot."

With each card she sent this notice: "Masquerade party—dress in your own costume."

Of course, as it turned out, almost every guest was dressed as a witch or wizard, with high-peaked caps, brown stained faces, long brown robes and carrying weird looking brooms. Some had black cats, live or stuffed, on their hooked backs.

The house was dimly lighted by jack-o'-lanterns, over the faces of which were pasted masks which were as grimy and creepy in appearance as Helen and her family could devise. The door was opened by mysterious, unseen hands, and on the wall was a huge black paper hand pointing solemnly up the stairway.

Every one involuntarily fell into whispers, if they spoke at all. The hostess and her assistants received them silently with outstretched hands, which, when grasped, sent chills up and down backbones, for they were cold and clammy (being, in fact, gloves stuffed with wet sand instead of the human hands that were expected).

When all were ready and expectant a deep-toned bell was solemnly intoned; then a curtain was drawn aside, revealing the "Three Witches of Macbeth" hovering over a steaming caldron. While two of them stirred the "hell-broth" with huge spoons the third croaked the famous witch lines:

"Thrice the bridle cat hath mew'd," etc.

Next the guests passed one by one into a fortune-telling booth, which was built up in front of a large open fireplace. Here the fortune-telling witch foretold their fates by means of solder melted in a big iron spoon. When dropped into water, the solder took strange forms, which she interpreted according to her fancy.

After this came a most sensational episode—three huge black cats (persons dressed up to represent cats) entered the room, and a hollow voice announced, slowly and awesomely: "If a cat sits down at your side, you will have lifelong peace and domestic happiness. If a cat rubs herself against you, or jumps into your lap, you will be exceptionally happy. But if all three cats avoid you, ill fortune is yours!"

Finally came a witches' dance, to the music of a weird witch-dance tune, all of the witches joining silently in it—silently, that is, until they broke out into giggles as a shaft of light fell on this face and that, revealing its identity.

COSTUMES REMOVED
Then all removed their costumes and settled down to many jolly Halloween games, for which Helen had made ample preparations, many of which are described elsewhere on this page.

A light supper ended the party. The table was decorated with jack-o'-lanterns and chrysanthemums, and the refreshments were old-fashioned, consisting of huge platters of gingerbread, heaps of apples and other orchard fruits, quantities of nuts, raisins and candies, and, last of all, a Halloween cake containing a ring, a coin, a thimble and a button.

The ring promised its finder an early marriage, the coin great riches, the thimble spinsterhood and the button old bachelorhood.

The Witches' Dance
THIS should be the close of the evening's pleasure. Place a small table in the middle of the floor and have every one join in forming a big ring, leaving an opening toward the door for you. Tell them to close their eyes tight, as they stand taking hold of hands, while you put out the light, and to keep their eyes shut until you light it again.

Have already prepared a very large bowl with as many raisins as there are members of the party, and at the last moment pour over them a half cup of alcohol and a tablespoonful of salt. Have a match in your hand, and as you quickly set the bowl on the little table in the center of the circle light the match and touch it to the alcohol. Then call them to open their eyes, and start the ring, all dancing round and round as the weird greenish flames leap up in the darkness.

Tell them each one is to plunge their hands in the flames and get a raisin. No one is ever burned in the slightest if they quickly thrust their hands in and out again.

The greatest fun is to have prepared beforehand as many slips of paper as there are guests, with a line of good fortune written on each. Wrap each one around a chocolate cream and then wrap in foil. Throw these in the bowl instead of the raisins, and then make it even more gruesome, you can be dressed as a witch with a pointed cap and wand, and say in sepulchral tones:

"All those who would their fortune know
Must quickly test this fiery glow."

Roasting Apples
CHOOSE your apple and turn it seven times in the hand as you silently name a favored person. The apple could be roasted on a spit over a kitchen fire if you have no fireplace. While roasting, if the apple roasts evenly to the core, a number of seeds will be seven or can be divided by seven, it promises a bright future. If the core prove worm-eaten, then disappointment is sure to follow while if the apple bursts its skin and the juice overflows, there is fame and fortune in store.

RAISIN RACE
made a wish. If successful, the wish will come true.
This is not as easy as it looks, you will find.

Suggestions for Halloween Parties.
Use mirrors, mirrors, mirrors!
Borrow them from neighbors for the occasion. You cannot have too many.
Have as many candles burning before the mirrors as you can possibly have. They will be reflected over and over again in the many mirrors.

Corn-red, white and yellow—makes a splendid decoration. You can thrust them into the meshes of fishnets which you drape on the walls.

If you live in the country (or if you have a barn, no matter where you live), do hold your Halloween party there. It is half the fun! Next to the barn, choose a good big attic. Next to that, a roomy kitchen and the dining room.

Green crepe paper is nice to drape the refreshment table with. Don't fail to provide plenty of popcorn, with poppers and a fire to do the popping over.

The Ghostly Circle

JUST before going home form a circle, all sitting before the open fire. While every one is in a talkative mood, just after the refreshments, hand each one a saucer containing a dessertspoonful of salt saturated with pure alcohol and a couple of matches. The hostess starts the ball rolling by striking a match and lighting the mixture in her saucer. As the flames dart up and the lights are low, she tells as ghostly a story as possible. The story must continue until the last flame dies out. Each one in turn lights his or her match and tells a story as weird and as gruesome as it is possible to conjure, and no matter what the situation at the time the last bit of flame, the story must stop. If in the middle of a word. All who tell a complete story and finish it before the flames die out are entitled to prizes.

Roasting Chestnuts

THESE may be roasted on a shovel held over hot coals or upon the top of the stove. Two are named and held aside by a side; if they remain roasting quietly, long and lasting affection is predicted between the parties; if one or both hop away, it signifies a disagreement; those that persist in moving about are fickle, while those that fly off the shovel or stove are destined to remain single another year.



JUST think, boys and girls! It is barely 200 years since here in our enlightened United States of America men and women were charged with practicing witchcraft, tortured into false confessions, and put to death!

Through the efforts of the celebrated Cotton Mather, 20 people were put to death as witches, 55 were cruelly tortured and narrowly escaped death, 150 were thrown into prison, and 200 were openly accused or suspected before people found their right senses and put a death to this terrible persecution of perfectly innocent people.

It hardly seems possible, does it? For WE think of witches just as we do of fairies and gnomes—as delightful make-believes, just lovely to read stories about and all that sort of thing, but never as real!

Look in the dictionary, boys and girls, and count the number of words that are derived from the word witch—at least 25 of them! That indicates how firmly people used to believe in the absurd idea of real witches.



Who Can Read This?

the houses alike
A very long street looks very dreary.
the houses alike
When properly read it makes excellent sense.

Acrostic.
When you have set down the correct names of famous American writers in the list, read the star letters down and find the name of one of the most popular nights in the year.

1. Last name of the author of the "One Hoss Shay."
2. Last name of the author of "Over the Hills and Far Away."
3. Last name of a famous Hoosier poet.
4. Last name of the author of "The Hoosier Schoolmaster."
5. Last name of a famous Pennsylvania author-traveler.
6. Last name of an American humorist, whose pen name was "Artemus Ward."
7. Last name of our most famous American humorist.
8. Maiden name of the author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin."
9. Last name of an American humorist who was always known as "Bill" instead of by his real Christian name.

Puzzle Ounces.
Example—Add an ounce to two letters and make "to punish severely."

Answer—Tr—ounce—ounce.
1. Add an ounce to one letter and make "to rebound."

History Puzzle

Can you read this historical statement?
William _____ came _____ in 1066,
the sea _____ then _____ of England, _____
the South coast _____ threw _____
Harold and became king.

1. Add an ounce to two letters and make "a loose ruffe."
2. Add an ounce to one letter and make "to fall suddenly upon."
3. Add an ounce to three letters and have "to make known."
4. Add an ounce to three letters and make "to inform against, stigmatize."
5. Add an ounce to three letters and make "to disavow, abjure."

How Much Do You Know?
Here are questions in English history. See if you can answer them without referring to your books. Fill each blank with the name of an English monarch.

1. _____ was beheaded by William and Mary.
2. _____ was dethroned by Boer War.
3. _____ established the Church of England.
4. _____ is the present king.
5. _____ reigned during the American Revolution.
6. _____ sent out Cabots expedition.
7. _____ reigned when the Battle of Crecy was fought.
8. _____ beheaded Mary, Queen of Scots.
9. _____ granted the Magna Charta.
10. _____ reigned during the War of the Spanish Succession.
11. _____ went in the Third Crusade.
12. _____ was killed at Bosworth Field.
13. _____ reigned during the war of the Austrian succession.

Answers to Last Week's Puzzles and Problems

Picture Puzzle
"Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are,
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky."

Drop-Letter Puzzles.
1. Philadelphia. 2. Baltimore. 3. Chicago. 4. Sacramento. 5. St. Louis. 6. Hartford. 7. New Orleans. 8. Tallahassee. 9. Lansing. 10. Washington.

What Invention?
Airship.

Two-Word Squares.
L O N C R O W
R O P E R O V E
O P A L O V E N
N E L L W E N T

Printer's Pi.
"How often have I blessed the coming day,
When toil remitting lent its turn to play,
And all the village train, from labor free,
Led up their sports beneath the spreading tree."

Enigma.
Keywords—Real, Julia, race, sauce, Carl. Whole—Julius Caesar.

Riddles.
1. In February, because that month has only twenty-eight days.
2. Your uncle is your father's brother, but your father is not your uncle.
3. The last must take the dish with his eye, and can leave it lying there as long as he pleases.

Double Beheading.
Meat-eat-at.

Single Beheading.
Dice-ice.

Shorthand Spelling.
X X U S—Extremate.

Some Halloween Traditions

Time-Honored Ways of Peeping Into the Future

THERE are more Halloween stunts than can possibly be described in one short article. Read these, and very likely you will find a number of them are new to you.

Tie a wedding ring to a string and swing it around a drinking glass, at the same time repeating the alphabet. When the ring clicks against the glass the letter you have reached will be the initial of your future husband or wife.

Drink salt water before you retire; you may dream of drinking sweet cold water. The one offering it to you will be the future spouse, if of the proper sex and if you do not waken before drinking. But if you waken before drinking,

"Lover is fled,
And you'll never wed!"

Peel a pippin, making one long, unbroken paring, and swing the paring three times around your head, and let it drop to the floor. If it forms a letter, this will be the initial of your future spouse. As you pare and swing the paring, repeat the following lines:

"Pare this pippin round and round again.
My sweetheart's name to flourish on the plain,
I fling the unbroken paring o'er my head,
My sweetheart's letter on the ground is read."

Place two halves of apple seeds on your eyelashes, after naming each for a lover. The first to drop off will prove unfaithful.

TEST OF THE DISHES

Place three dishes on the floor, one empty, one filled with foul water, and one filled with clean water. After being blindfolded, approach the plates and dip your finger into one. If it enters the empty dish, you will never be married; if the dish with foul water, you will be a widow, or have domestic unhappiness; if the dish with clean water, you will be happily married.

Place beside your bed a glass of water containing a silver of wood. If in your sleep you dream of falling off a bridge and some one rescuing you, the face of the hero will be that of your future spouse.

Of course, you know the apple-seed stunt. Name your apple and then count the seeds to the following rhyme:

"One I love, two I love, three I love, I say,
Four I love with all my heart,
And five I cast away;
Six she loves, seven he loves, eight both love,
Nine he comes, ten he tarries,
Eleven he courts and twelve he marries."

Count the white flecks in your finger nails, beginning with the thumb, as follows: "Present, friend, foe, letter to write, journey to go."

Another stunt which most young people know well is the canceling stunt. Write some person's name under that of the person whose fate you are testing. Cancel all the common letters, then counting off all the uncanceled letters repeat this formula: "Friendship, love, indifference, hate; friendship, love, indifference, hate."

Walk around the house three times, your mouth full of water and holding a mirror in one hand and a lighted candle in the other. If before your walk ends you see a face reflected in

the mirror—not your own face and of the right sex—it is your future spouse.

Take a bowl of water, place on the surface a sheet of thin tissue paper, and then, two persons at a time, lay a well-greased needle apiece on the tissue paper. As the needles behave to each other so will the two persons. If they make for each other, the two persons will be ultimately attracted and probably marry; if they move apart, so will the persons.

HOW FORTUNE FLOATS

Take half walnut shells and pour melted wax into them, at the same time laying short strings inside for wicks. Light these and set the nutshells afloat on the water. Interpret their behavior as you do that of the needles, naming each shell for a person.

A severe test is for the entire company of boys and girls to fill their mouths with water and take up an entire handful of salt apiece. Then dling out of doors, walk around the house three times. Those who succeed in doing this without swallowing any water or spilling any salt will find their future mates in the first persons of the opposite sex whom they meet.

Place a wedding ring in a platter of flour. Let each one take his turn cutting with a knife. The one finding the ring will have a fortune.

Hang a horseshoe in a doorway and give each guest a chance to throw an apple through it from a certain distance. All who succeed will be lucky all year.

Hide a ring, a thimble and a coin in the room. All must hunt for it. The one finding the ring will be married, the one finding the thimble will be single and the one finding the coin will be rich.

Halloween Lore

THROW a ball of yarn out of your window and rewind it from within, repeating the paternoster backward as you do so, all the while watching the ball. Presently, if you have good luck, you will have a vision of your future husband's face.

Take two long-stemmed red roses and intertwine the stems, repeating these lines:

"Twine, twine and intertwine,
Let my love be wholly mine;
If his heart be kind and true,
Deeper grow his rose's hue."

Look in your glass while combing your hair, at the same time eating an apple and holding a candle in one hand. You must also be alone. If you have good luck, you will see your future mate's face peeping over your shoulder in the mirror.

They say that children who are born on Halloween have and retain through their childhood the power to converse with witches, devils and mischief-making elves.

Alphabet Pumpkin

IN a doorway hang a pumpkin on whose fat, yellow sides you have prettily burned the outlines of all the letters of the alphabet with a hot poker.

While some one keeps the pumpkin rapidly twirling, let all the guests take turns hurling long meat skewers at the pumpkin. Whoever succeeds in stabbing a letter may be assured that that letter will be the initial of his fate.

FORTUNE TELLING

HALLOWEEN without an hour of palm reading would scarcely be Halloween.

Let some one dressed as a witch or gypsy conduct the seance, beginning with this solemn announcement: "Ladies and gentlemen: Nature makes no errors. She has engraved the lines of your fortune in your hand, which I shall now proceed to interpret."

Supposing you act as the palm reader, read carefully the following general directions and you will be able to read palms very well, indeed.

Remember these facts, first of all: The lines and mounts of the left hand are those formed by the acts of our ancestors, the character which we inherit. The lines of the right hand reveal what we have made of ourselves. But they do not necessarily keep us from considerably altering our lives in the future, as palmistry allows for the "free will" of every individual. Still, they do indicate what we are likely to be and do in the future and what is likely to happen to us.

Now for details: A hand that is too slim or lacking in firmness indicates a weak character. One that is supple and well proportioned indicates a capacity for appreciating life's goods and pleasures. If thick and hard, it indicates less brain than brute instinct.

If long and supple, with long, delicate fingers, a sentimental, impulsive, enthusiastic, artistic temperament is indicated. If short and somewhat square, with fingers flat and bulging round at the ends, the owner is a practical, enterprising, efficient, modest, moral rather than religious, a lover of humanity, animal life and nature.

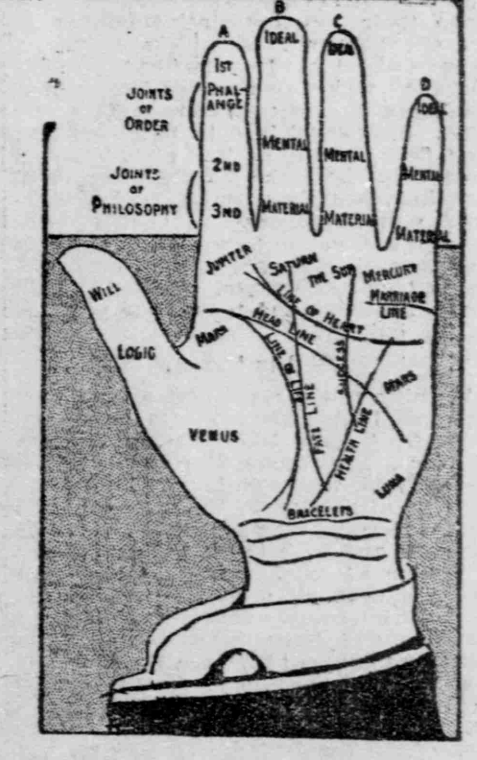
WHAT PALMS INDICATE

Soft palms indicate affection and a tendency to luxury. Firm palms indicate energy and vitality. Hard palms indicate lack of sympathy. Hollow palms show ill-health. Palms tending to cleave indicate the secretiveness. A tendency to hide the thumb inside the palm indicates covetousness.

Large finger joints indicate good management. Long fingers show carefulness, perhaps even a tendency to worry. Short fingers show quickness in thought and action.

Short fore fingers show cheerful disposition; long ones, vanity; medium, love of ruling. The second finger, if long, shows morbidness; if medium, a love of admiration. The fourth finger, if short, shows quick perception; if long, great powers of expression; if medium, a progressive, energetic nature.

The thumb is king of the hand. Small thumbs indicate that the heart rules the head, large ones show the head governs the heart. Very small thumbs indicate weakness of will. Very large



ones indicate overbearing manners. A supple thumb shows the owner will listen to reason and persuasion. A very stiff one indicates stubbornness.

Of the mounts (at the base of the fingers): The Mount of Jupiter, below the first finger, if large, shows noble ambition. Saturn, under the middle finger, shows wisdom, success. Apollo, under the third finger, shows taste, genius, riches. Mercury, under the little finger, shows industry and activity.

The lifeline, if well defined and well colored, shows long and prosperous life. A break in it means illness. Branches leading out from it indicate a tendency to whatever the lines or mounts approached by the branches indicate. For instance, leading toward Mercury promises a marriage.

The heartline, if firm and unbroken, indicates prosperity in love. If broken, it indicates disappointments in love.

The line of fate, rising straight and unbroken from the wrist, indicates uninterrupted good fortune and success.

The headline, good and strong, shows great brain power and common sense. The line of marriage, long, deep and well-formed, foretells a happy marriage.

Children are indicated by five upward lines from the middle or end of the line of marriage on the Mount of Mercury.